

## **Furlough Assistance/President's Discretionary Fund Policy**

### **Intent**

This program was developed to help those SMPS Research Triangle (RT) Chapter members who are paid in good standing and experiencing economic challenges due to being unemployed. Eligible members would want to stay connected and continue leveraging the SMPS RT network as one means of finding a position but are unable to pay the program registration fee out of pocket.

This assistance can also be given to active Chapter Volunteers in good standing whose firms opt out of paying for events they are required to attend as part of their volunteer duties. Chapter Volunteers are those active members of an official RT Chapter committee or a member of the Board of Directors.

**Who qualifies?** SMPS RT Chapter paid members in good standing who are actively serving on the Board, and/or a committee, and/or have attended numerous programs demonstrating their interest/active engagement in SMPS, and who are currently unemployed and unable to self-fund registration fees. SMPS RT Chapter Volunteers in good standing whose firms do not pay for their attendance at events they are required to attend.

### **Chapter-Provided Benefit and Funding**

An amount of \$600 will be allocated in the budget each program year to cover the cost of event registrations. Future Presidents will determine if this remains line item "Furlough Assistance/President's Discretionary Fund" under the President's budget section with the amount to cover one program year.

There may be more than one (1) recipient per program year. The benefit per qualified individual ends after three (3) (see next paragraph) events are used within a program year OR if the individual becomes employed within the term OR if individual's firm opts in for event payment OR if funding is depleted, whichever occurs first.

The Chapter would pay the registration fee for the qualified member(s) for up to three (3) qualifying SMPS RT educational programs during the program term – if funds are available in the budget.

No monies are paid to any members; the Chapter would pay program registration fees for qualified recipients with the registration process handled by the President or other knowledgeable StarChapter designate. There may be more than one member using this benefit at one time.

**Application Process** – RT Board Members will share the information with committee members and membership. The "application process" includes the applicant submitting a request to [info@smpstriangle.org](mailto:info@smpstriangle.org). The President, or designated other Board member, would have a phone call with the applicant to confidentially confirm their situation AND interest in continuing their SMPS RT program attendance. Though not mandatory, a RT Chapter member who has demonstrated consistent active involvement and/or leadership on the Board and/or a committee, may receive preferential ranking should there be more than one applicant and funding is limited.